

# Abstracts

- DUE 3/11/10
  - Prior to this, you need to confirm your topic with Dr. Roman
    - Today after class: 4-4:30 here
    - Email, *cnr@gso.uri.edu*
    - Office hours
      - 3/14/10: 1:00 – 2:00 or 4 - 4:30

# Key points

An abstract is short concise statement that conveys the following...

- What the topic is
- Why the reader should care
- What will be covered in the paper
- What conclusion will be drawn at the end of the paper

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- Word count – 150-200
- If you receive a **D** or **F** on the abstract you will have to meet with me and discuss your abstract prior to your final paper being accepted for grading.
- The abstract grade is 25% of the term paper grade

# Anatomy of an abstract

- Introduce the subject
- Motivate the reason for looking at this subject
- Describe your method(s) for learning about this subject
- Conclude, what the reader will come away with

Don't:

Use undefined acronyms, abbreviations, slang

Don't be long winded

Don't bury your conclusions in the text, say it explicitly

# Anatomy of an abstract

- Introduce the subject
  - 1 or 2 sentences about the topic
  - Jump right in
    - “This paper summarizes the use and applicability of radio detection and ranging (RADAR) systems on both manned and unmanned surface ships, and presents an educational outline to gain an understanding of this technology.”

# Anatomy of an abstract

- Motivate the reason for looking at this subject
  - Convince the reader to keep reading
    - “Navigation and collision avoidance are persistent concerns for mariners working in busy coastal areas as well as offshore. Increased vessel traffic and the development of unmanned systems operating in close proximity to traditional vessels will only increase the demand for reliable range and collision avoidance sensing. RADAR systems have evolved to meet this demand by becoming smaller, more power efficient and modular.”

# Anatomy of an abstract

- Describe your method(s) for learning about this subject
  - Explain how you were able to obtain the information to write this paper
    - “A survey of current technical journals and industry publications was used to obtain information on the current size, price, and power requirements for commercially available systems. This study targeted systems built explicitly for large ships and those build for integration into small unmanned surface vehicles. Gaps in the current capabilities of these systems were also identified.”

# Anatomy of an abstract

- Conclude
  - Tell the reader what they will learn if they keep reading
    - “The results of this survey show an steady increase in the production of RADAR systems, an increase in the power to weight ratio of systems and an emerging market to provide systems for small unmanned vehicles. Additionally, a professional elective class sequence is presented to prepare for a concentration in sensing technologies and possible employment in this industry.”